



News Release

FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 AM – June 15, 2000

LADWP, NATION'S LARGEST MUNICIPAL UTILITY, INVESTS \$6 MILLION IN SOLAR DURING FIRST YEAR OF EFFORT

Contract to AstroPower, Inc. for Phase 1 of Ambitious Program Announced

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the largest municipal utility in the nation, announced today that it has awarded AstroPower, Inc., a \$6 million contract to supply solar electric power modules.

This contract is the largest single award for solar power since utility deregulation was introduced in the U.S. seven years ago. The contract represents only the first phase of an ambitious four-year, \$38 million program to provide clean solar power to LADWP customers.

“This marks a new chapter in our quest to make solar power widely available in the City of Los Angeles,” said Angelina Galiteva, LADWP director of strategic planning. “We hope that other energy companies throughout America take our lead and give the people what they want: electricity that is clean, safe and reliable.”

Solar power cells produce power on customer sites without creating noise or air pollution – right where the demand for electricity is needed. Solar lowers the pollution index of the overall electric grid while also improving system reliability.

Many of the solar panels AstroPower will provide under this contract will be installed on the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be showcased this summer at the Democratic National Convention. When completed this fall, this facility will be the largest solar-powered building to date in North America.

The panels at the Convention Center will help provide peak electricity. Many will be positioned to create cover for parking spaces, providing shade and weather protection. The balance will be installed on various public municipal buildings throughout Los Angeles, including community centers and libraries.

“When electricity customers have a vote, they choose solar power,” said AstroPower President and CEO Dr. Allen M. Barnett. “That’s why municipal utilities, which are owned by their customers, are leading the U.S. industry in bringing clean energy to the public. AstroPower is very pleased to be working with the LADWP to make solar energy affordable and easy for the people in Los Angeles. That’s right at the core of our company’s business. We look forward to competing on subsequent phases of LADWP’s \$38 million program.”

LADWP’s Solar Program is part of the utility’s Public Benefits initiative authorized by AB 1890, California’s electric utility deregulation act approved in 1996.

About LADWP

LADWP serves more than 1.4 million electric customers within the 465 square miles comprising the City of Los Angeles. More than 3.7 million people call the nation’s major city their home.

The solar program is one in a series of environmental initiatives that include the Green Power for a Green LA, Energy Solutions for a Green LA, Cool Schools Tree Planting Program and Electric Transportation for a Green LA. Information about these programs is available at www.GreenLA.com.

About AstroPower

AstroPower is the largest US-owned manufacturer of solar electric power products, and one of the world’s fastest growing solar electric power companies. AstroPower develops, manufactures, markets and sells solar cells, modules, panels and systems for generating solar electric power. Solar electric power systems provide a clean, renewable source of electricity in both off-grid and on-grid applications.

Headquartered in Newark, Delaware, AstroPower (NASDAQ: APWR) is the largest U.S.-owned photovoltaic (PV) manufacturer and one of the fastest growing PV companies in the world. In Nov. 1999, AstroPower was selected by Industry Week magazine as one of the 25

most successful small manufacturers in the U.S. For more information, please visit www.AstroPower.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, as described in the Company's registration statement and periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Company's future results will not be materially different from those projected. The projections contained herein speak only of the Company's expectations as of the date of this press release. The Company hereby expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any such statements to reflect any change in the Company's expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which such statement is based.

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